

California Commission on the Status of Women

Talking Points

April 2010

- ◆ The California Commission on the Status of Women is the only state agency that looks specifically at all issues impacting women. The current budget crisis and the economy are having a disparate impact on women and their families, making the work of the Commission even more important as the State moves forward.
- ◆ The Commission serves women and girls by seeking their input through public hearings across the state. What the Commission learns from them helps shape the Commission's public policy agenda.
- ◆ The Commission appoints members to the State Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault Victim Services Program and advocates on issues regarding violence against women.
- ◆ The Commission is an independent voice within State Government for the women of California, monitoring legislation and helping develop good public policy.
- ◆ The Commission serves as an important link between many communities and the government. These include the working poor and their families, incarcerated women, those with limited English language ability, and those with least access to State Government and services.
- ◆ The Commission plays an important role in the legislative process by providing Legislators, advocates, the Governor and other state agencies with gender analysis on proposed bills and actions, identifying how they would impact women and girls in the state.
- ◆ The Commission facilitates the development of coalitions of diverse organizations around various issues such as reproductive rights, paid family leave, incarcerated women, etc.
- ◆ We know these are hard economic times. But the Commission's modest budget of \$487,000 would not even come close to putting a dent in California's 20 billion dollar budget deficit. Those who oppose our efforts to achieve equality are trying to take this opportunity to leverage away our ability to work on behalf of issues impacting women and their families.
- ◆ The Commission is needed more than ever! Unfortunately, women's organizations that once funded full-time advocates no longer have the resources necessary to do this. Increasingly, the Commission serves as the primary advocate for women with the Legislature and the primary conduit to California women with information on legislation and issues impacting California women.

For more information, contact the California Commission on the Status of Women at 916-445-3173.